



U.S. Small Business Administration

DISASTER NEWS

Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes

SBA Disaster Assistance – Field Operations Center- East – 101 Marietta Street, NW, Suite 700, Atlanta, GA 30303

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Contact: Michael Lampton
Phone: (404) 331-0333

SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Center Opens In Pulaski and Alexander Counties, Illinois

ATLANTA – The U.S. Small Business Administration announces today the opening of Disaster Loan Outreach Centers in Pulaski and Alexander counties. SBA customer service representatives will be on hand at the Disaster Loan Outreach Center to issue loan applications, answer questions about the SBA’s disaster loan program, explain the application process and help individuals complete their application. Those affected by the severe storms and flooding of March 17 through April 30, 2008 are eligible to apply for disaster loan assistance.

“I encourage anyone with disaster related losses not covered by insurance to meet with the Customer Service Representative at the Center for one-on-one assistance in completing the SBA disaster loan application package,” said Frank Skaggs, Director of SBA Field Operations Center East.

The locations of the Disaster Loan Outreach Centers are:

<u>Pulaski County</u>	<u>Alexander County</u>
Pulaski County Business Center, SIDEZ Office 330 Enterprise Lane Mounds, IL 62964 Opens: September 29, 2008 at 8 a.m. Hours: Monday-Friday; 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Closes: Friday, October 3, 2008 at the close of business	Cairo Public Library 1609 Washington Avenue Cairo, IL 62914 Opens: October 6, 2008 at 10 a.m. Hours: Monday-Friday; 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Closes: October 10, 2008 at the close of business

Homeowners, renters and businesses in the following counties are eligible to apply: Alexander, Gallatin, Pulaski, Saline and Williamson counties and the adjacent counties of Franklin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jackson, Johnson, Massac, Pope, Union and White in the State of Illinois; Posey County in the State of Indiana; Ballard, McCracken and Union counties in the Commonwealth of Kentucky; and Cape Girardeau, Mississippi and Scott counties in the State of Missouri.

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“Loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property,” Frank Skaggs added.

Businesses and non-profit organizations of any size may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, inventory, machinery and equipment. The SBA can also lend additional funds to help with the cost of making improvements that protect, prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage in the future.

For small businesses, and most private, non-profit organizations of all sizes, the SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. EIDL assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage.

Interest rates are as low as 2.750 percent for homeowners and renters, and 4.000 percent for businesses with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based upon each applicant’s financial condition.

Anyone unable to visit one of the Centers may obtain an SBA Disaster Loan application or the SBA’s program information by calling the SBA’s Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (or 1-800-877-8339 for the hearing impaired) Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. EDT or by emailing our customer service center at disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Business loan applications may be downloaded from www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Applications may be returned to one of the Centers or mailed to: U. S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, Texas, 76155.

Applicants may apply for disaster loans from SBA’s secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is **November 3, 2008**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **June 2, 2009**.

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For more information about the SBA’s Disaster Loan Programs, visit our website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance.